

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contact for an electrical connector, the contact comprising:
 - a) a first contact leg;
 - b) a second contact leg arranged in a substantially mirror relationship with the first contact leg; and
 - c) a connecting member extending between and being integral with the first contact leg and the second contact leg;wherein each of the first contact leg and the second contact leg includes a mating portion for engagement with one of a pair of spaced apart circuit board through holes disposed in a single circuit board, the mating portion comprising an elastically deformable beam for imparting a normal force onto a wall of a circuit board through hole upon engagement of the mating portion with a circuit board.
2. The contact of claim 1, wherein the elastically deformable beam includes a hinge that facilitates elastic deformation of the elastically deformable beam.
3. The contact of claim 1, wherein the elastically deformable beam includes a shoulder region for limiting insertion depth of the mating portion into a circuit board through hole.
4. The contact of claim 3, wherein a hinge is formed in the shoulder region.
5. The contact of claim 1, wherein the mating portion further comprises a second beam extending from the elastically deformable beam.
6. The contact of claim 5, wherein an intersection of the elastically deformable beam and the second beam defines a discrete engaging area such that friction between the contact mating portion and a circuit board through hole is minimized.
7. The contact of claim 6, wherein the second beam includes a second discrete engaging area that is transversely offset from the discrete engaging area.

8. The contact of claim 1, wherein the mating portion includes first and second discrete engaging areas for engaging a wall of a circuit board through hole.
9. The contact of claim 8, wherein the first discrete engaging area is vertically and transversely offset from the second discrete engaging area.
10. The contact of claim 1, wherein each of the first contact leg and the second contact leg includes an opposing mating portion for a soldered connection with a circuit board.
11. A contact for an electrical connector, the contact comprising:
 - a) a first contact leg;
 - b) a second contact leg spaced apart from the first contact leg;
 - c) a connecting member extending between the first contact leg and the second contact leg and being integral therewith;wherein each of the first contact leg and the second contact leg includes a mating portion for engaging one of a pair of circuit board through holes formed in a single circuit board, the mating portion comprising at least one hinge that facilitates elastic deformation of the mating portion upon engagement of the mating portion with a wall of a circuit board through hole.
12. The contact of claim 11, wherein the mating portion further comprises a first beam and a second beam extending therefrom, each of the first beam and the second beam including a section that is angled with respect to a longitudinal contact axial line.
13. The contact of claim 12, wherein the angled section of the first beam is angled in a different direction than the angled section of the second beam.

14. The contact of claim 12, wherein the at least one hinge is disposed proximate an intersection of the first beam and the second beam.
15. The contact of claim 12, wherein the first beam comprises a second hinge.
16. The contact of claim 15, wherein the first beam includes a shoulder oriented orthogonal to the longitudinal contact axial line for limiting insertion depth of the mating portion into a circuit board through hole.
17. The contact of claim 16, wherein the second hinge is disposed in the shoulder.
18. The contact of claim 11, wherein the mating portion consists of a first discrete engaging area and a second discrete engaging area for engaging a wall of a circuit board through hole.
19. The contact of claim 18, wherein the first discrete engaging area is both vertically and transversely offset from the second discrete engaging area.
20. A contact for an electrical connector, the contact comprising:
 - a contact leg including a mating portion for engagement with a circuit board through hole, the mating portion including a beam comprising:
 - a) a shoulder region extending orthogonal to a longitudinal contact axial line for limiting insertion depth of the mating portion into a circuit board through hole;
 - b) a discrete engaging area for imparting a normal force onto a wall of a circuit board through hole; and
 - c) a hinge formed in the shoulder region that facilitates elastic deformation of at least some of the mating portion upon engagement of the discrete engaging area with a wall of a circuit board through hole.

21. The contact of claim 20, further comprising a second contact leg that is arranged in a substantially mirror relationship with the contact leg, and a connecting member coupling the second contact leg to the contact leg.
22. The contact of claim 21, wherein the contact leg, the second contact leg, and the connecting member are integral.
23. The contact of claim 21, wherein the second contact leg has a mating portion that is configured similar to that of the contact leg.
24. The contact of claim 23, wherein the mating portion of each of the contact leg and the second contact leg further comprises a second discrete engaging area that is laterally and vertically offset from the discrete engaging area.
25. An electrical connector comprising:
an insulative housing; and
a contact according to claim 1 disposed in the insulative housing.
26. An electrical connector comprising:
an insulative housing; and
a contact according to claim 11 disposed in the insulative housing.
27. An electrical connector comprising:
an insulative housing; and
a contact according to claim 20 disposed in the insulative housing.